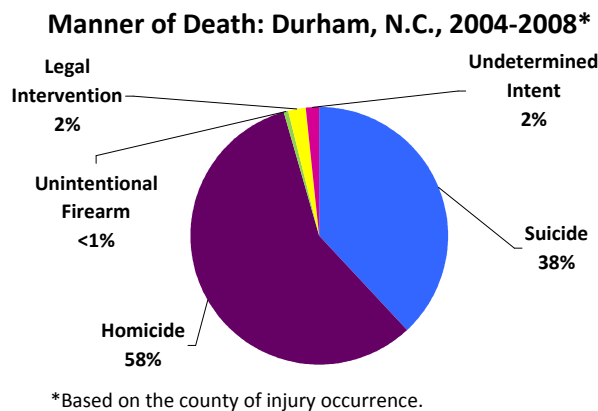


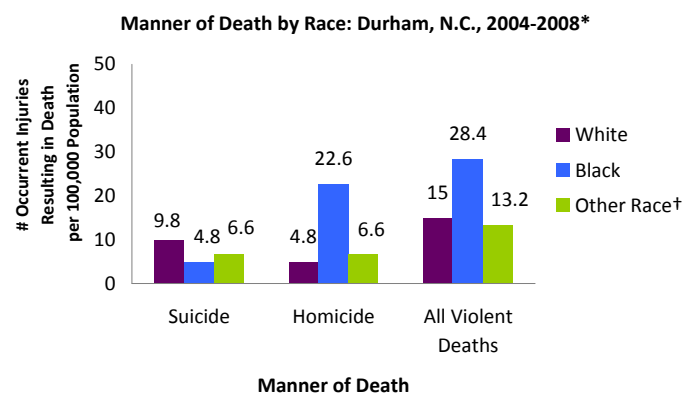
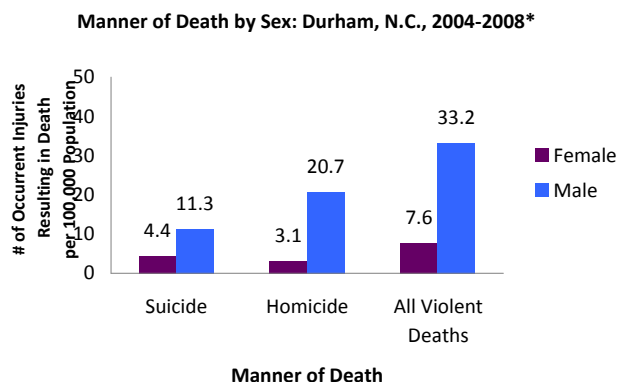
# VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: DURHAM COUNTY INCIDENTS: 2004-2008

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in N.C. resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of *occurrence* rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the occurrence ratio is reported. This statistic is derived from the total number of violent deaths resulting from injuries in a specified geographic region divided by the number of residents in this region. This document summarizes all fatal injuries from violence that occurred in Durham County for the years 2004 through 2008.



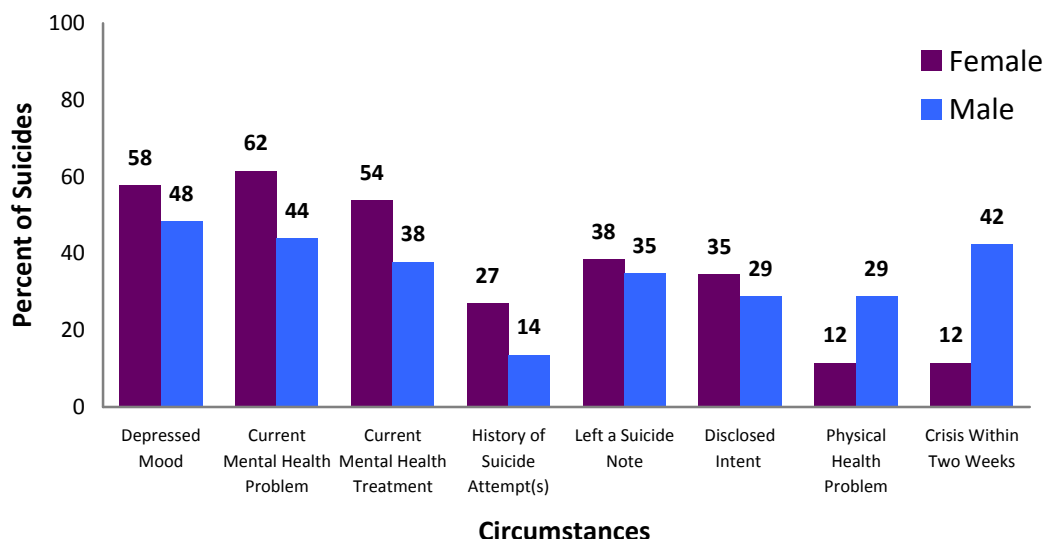
- For the years 2004-2008, there were 254 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Durham County, North Carolina. Of these 254 deaths, 251 were N.C. residents and 230 (91 %) were Durham County residents.
- There were 146 homicides (58 %), 97 suicides (38 %), one unintentional firearm death (<1 %), six deaths from legal interventions (two %), and four deaths of undetermined intent (two %).

- In Durham County, males were 2.5 times more likely to die from self-inflicted injuries than females and 6.5 times more likely to die as result of homicide than females .
- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be white than black or another racial group. Whites had 9.8 suicides per 100,000 population versus 4.8 suicides per 100,000 population in blacks.
- In contrast, blacks had 22.6 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to whites who had 4.8 homicides per 100,000 population.



- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked in the 20-24 year age group with a smaller peak in infancy; whereas suicides increased with age and peaked in adults older than age 65.
- Most homicides (73 %) and suicides (45 %) were committed using firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 26 percent of homicides and 25 percent of suicides.
- For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (spouse or ex-spouse, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (86 %) than male (77 %) victims.

#### Circumstances of Suicides: Durham, N.C., 2004-2008\*



\*Based on the county of injury occurrence. Two females and three males were missing circumstance information.

- More than 50 percent of Durham suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being depressed.

- Sixty-two percent of female suicide victims and 44 percent of male victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

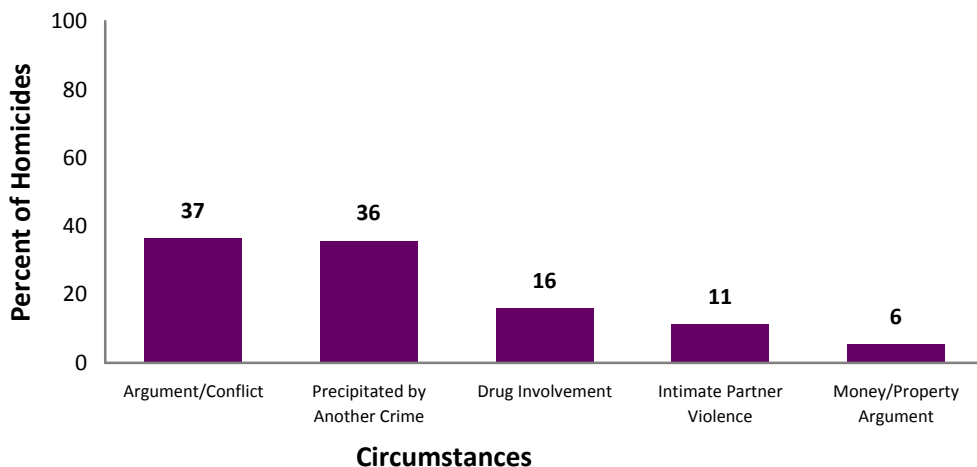
- Males (42 %) were more likely to have experienced a crisis within two weeks of death by suicide compared with females (12 %).

- Argument, abuse, or conflict unrelated to intimate partner violence (IPV) was noted as a contributing factor in almost 37 percent of homicides with reported circumstances.

- Thirty-six percent of homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking.

- Sixteen percent of all homicides with circumstances were identified as having drug involvement.

#### Circumstances of Homicides: Durham, N.C., 2004-2008\*



\*Based on the county of injury occurrence. Twenty homicides were missing circumstance information.

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